



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STATEMENT



October 1, 2019

File ID: 19-0460

TITLE

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA ACCEPTING THE 2018 STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANT AWARD FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO HIRE 12 FIREFIGHTERS

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Council adopt the resolution.

SUMMARY

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency has notified the Fire Department of the fiscal year 2018 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant award to hire 12 firefighters. The SAFER grant provides funding directly to fire departments to increase or maintain the number of trained "front line" firefighters available in their communities. The goal of the SAFER grant is to enhance local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1710.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The Director of Development Services has reviewed the proposed activity for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and has determined that the activity is not a "Project" as defined under Section 15378 of the State CEQA Guidelines; therefore, pursuant to Section 15060(c)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Thus, no environmental review is required.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Not applicable.

DISCUSSION

On May 7, 2018 the City Council approved Resolution 2018-062, which established commitment and support for the Fire Department to apply for the 2018 SAFER grant to hire twelve (12) firefighters. The SAFER grant provides funding directly to fire departments to increase or maintain the number of trained "front line" firefighters available in their communities. The goal of the SAFER grant is to enhance local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by NFPA Standard 1710.

On March 22, 2019 the Fire Department applied for the SAFER grant, and on September 18, 2019 the Fire Department received notification of the grant award. The performance period of the grant starts March 11, 2019 and ends March 10, 2023. The SAFER grant program allows the recruitment and hiring of firefighters to occur up to six months before the beginning of the three-year performance period.

SAFER is a cost sharing grant with a three-year performance period. Eligible costs within the grant include salary and benefits beginning from the date of hire, including fire academy training. The grant and matching funds are allocated as follows:

PERIOD	FEDERAL SHARE	FEDERAL AMOUNT	CITY SHARE	CITY SHARE
First -12 Months	75%	\$1,227,429	25%	\$409,143
Second -12 Months	75%	\$1,227,429	25%	\$409,143
Third - 12 Months	35%	\$572,800	65%	\$1,063,772
TOTAL		\$3,027,658		\$1,882,058

The Federal award amount for the complete performance period is \$3,027,658. As a condition of the grant, the City is required to contribute a cost match in the amount of \$1,882,058. The total project cost is \$4,909,716.

Accepting this grant and hiring 12 firefighters is anticipated to bring significant positive impacts to the Fire Department and Chula Vista. These firefighters will be used to staff E60 at the new 4.0 staffing level in the Millenia development area. Historically, this area has not met response times, and the addition of another engine company staffed with 4 firefighters will significantly improve response capability. The Fire Department currently does not meet City, Fire Department, and/or NFPA 1710 standards in this area. As stated in the grant application, this area is compliant 29% of the time. With the addition of E60, compliance is forecasted to be 50% of the time.

DECISION-MAKER CONFLICT

Staff has reviewed the decision contemplated by this action and has determined that it is not site-specific and consequently, the 500-foot rule found in California Code of Regulations Title 2, section 18702.2(a)(11), is not applicable to this decision for purposes of determining a disqualifying real property-related financial conflict of interest under the Political Reform Act (Cal. Gov't Code § 87100, et seq.).

Staff is not independently aware and has not been informed by any City Council member, of any other fact that may constitute a basis for a decision maker conflict of interest in this matter.

CURRENT-YEAR FISCAL IMPACT

Staff will return to City Council at a later date with actual costs associated with the academy, salary and benefits, and the proposed funding source for appropriation.

ONGOING FISCAL IMPACT

Ongoing fiscal impact costs are estimated at approximately \$2 million and will be budgeted as part of the normal Fire Department budget development process.

ATTACHMENTS

Not applicable.

Staff Contact: Harry Muns